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LECTURE,  
INTRODUCTORY TO A COURSE,  
ON  
OBSTETRICS  
AND THE  
DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN,

DELIVERED

April 10th, 1848,

BY  
WILLIAM HARRIS, M.D.

LECTURER ON MIDWIFERY, ETC.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

PHILADELPHIA:  
T. K. AND P. G. COLLINS, PRINTERS.  
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PHILADELPHIA, *April 12th*, 1848,

DEAR SIR:

At a meeting of the Medical Class, held this morning in the Lecture Room, it was

"Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to request of Dr. William Harris, a copy of his able and interesting Introductory Lecture for publication."

In passing this resolution, the Class are not only actuated by a due sense of the merits of the Lecture, and by respect for its author, but also by a conviction that its publication will do much toward the advancement of the profession, which is so dear to us all.

Allow us, therefore, in accordance with this resolution, and our own personal feelings, respectfully to urge upon you a compliance with the unanimous wishes of the class.

Yours, very respectfully,

S. ALLEN ENGLES,  
S. WYLIE CRAWFORD, JR.,  
PHILIP C. HARTMANN,  
JOS. B. DILLINGHAM,  
B. F. SHANNON.

To Dr. WILLIAM HARRIS.

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PHILADELPHIA, *April 14th*, 1848.

GENTLEMEN:

I have just had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 12th instant, soliciting, on the part of the class, a copy of my Introductory Lecture for publication.

Gratified by the flattering terms in which you are pleased to speak of my address, I cheerfully place a copy of it at your disposal.

Accept, for yourselves, and those you represent, the assurance of my sincere regard.

Yours, very affectionately and faithfully,  
WILLIAM HARRIS.

To Messrs. S. ALLEN ENGLES,  
S. WYLIE CRAWFORD, JR.  
PHILIP C. HARTMANN,  
JOS. B. DILLINGHAM,  
B. F. SHANNON.

}  
Committee.  
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## AN INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

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GENTLEMEN :

Although I have had some experience as a lecturer, I still find it impossible to enter upon the responsible duties of a course of public instruction, without deep solicitude. And my emotion is heightened, doubtless, by the fact that I am about to engage in the discussion of subjects which involve the life of woman, and the development of her interesting progeny.

We stand in the relation of preceptor and pupil. My duty is to communicate knowledge. Yours is to receive it. We stand, also, I trust, in the relation of mutual friends. The task before me would be irksome indeed, were it not that I expect to be encouraged by the kindly feelings of those around me.

I propose to teach you the science of Midwifery, and the treatment of the diseases of women and children; and it is usual, on occasions like the present, to introduce to the audience the topics to be embraced in the course, and to recommend them to their favour.

But as this is an interesting crisis in our professional concerns, I will venture to leave the routine path, and endeavour to give you enlarged views of your duties and interests, in the great field of medical science which you are about to enter.

Crowded as the profession now is, with gentlemen distinguished for their classical, scientific, and literary attainments, no one can hope to do honour to himself or



his calling, without a thorough preparatory, as well as medical education.

The world, it is true, is moving forward in its physical improvements with telegraphic rapidity. One brilliant discovery follows another in quick succession. Nevertheless, the student, engaged in the acquisition of knowledge, still finds that "there is no royal road to learning," along which he may roll with luxurious ease. The path which he has to travel is rugged and steep, and can only be ascended by slow and painful steps.

He finds that the Latin and Greek grammars are as difficult to commit to memory as they were a century ago, and that Horace, and Homer, and Cicero, and Xenophon, still require the most intense efforts of the mind, aided by Lexicons, to clearly comprehend their meaning. These are unquestionable facts; nevertheless, a knowledge of the classics is essential to a liberal education, and is absolutely necessary to a thorough understanding of the science of medicine. The Latin tongue is the language of *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy, and the Greek is the root of most of the technicalities of every branch of our varied science.

Is it not, then, deeply to be regretted that in the preparatory education of young gentlemen designed for the medical profession, the ancient languages are in so many instances entirely neglected? A mistaken idea prevails with some, that their attainment occupies too much time; that the period allotted to their acquisition might be better employed in obtaining more practical information. This opinion every day's experience proves to be a fallacy.

Besides, a knowledge of the dead languages tends to improve the faculties of the mind and to refine the taste. The memory is strengthened by its habitual exercise in acquiring and retaining the meaning of foreign words; the judgment is invigorated by a constant effort to se-

lect, from the many meanings of the original word, the one that will best express the idea of the author. The imagination, too, is chastened by the rich imagery that is presented; a taste for the fine arts is awakened, and by many of the ancient writers, the most happy illustrations are furnished. Who, then, can deny that classical studies tend to discipline the mind for future efforts in the pursuit of science and literature, and that they are essential to the culture of the intellectual man, whether designed to be an accomplished physician, an erudite lawyer, or a profound divine?

There is, moreover, a pleasure derived from mental cultivation, and from a consciousness of superiority, of which the mere votary of wealth has no conception.

The claims of the mind, too, as an independent part of our being, must not be overlooked, nor its appropriate enjoyment withheld. We were not designed, by the Author of our being, to spend all our time in *buying, selling, and getting gain*; but as the mind, or soul, is the better part of man, so the cultivation of its faculties is more noble than anything that relates to the body alone. The physical structure perishes, but the soul, which dwells within it during life, is indestructible and immortal.

The soul may sleep, but it never dies, neither does it enter the tomb with the body; but is translated, at death, from earth to heaven; and, according to the opinion of some learned theologians, it never ceases to act, and never loses any knowledge that it once possessed, but commences in the next world where it leaves off in this. How much wiser is it then to enrich the mind with imperishable treasures, than to spend all our days in accumulating "riches which make to themselves wings and fly away!"

Plato, the most learned and eloquent of all the Greek philosophers, was among the first that, without the aid



of revelation, had any conception of the immortality of the soul.\* In his doctrine of transmigration, he teaches that as soon as the body dies, the soul wanders about the earth until it enters some living animal, and in making its selection, he says, it follows the bent of its old propensities. The souls of sensualists and gluttons enter into asses; the unjust and tyrannical take possession of lions, tigers, and wolves; the souls of politicians animate hornets, wasps, and bees; but none could pass into the genus of the Gods, says the great Athenian, but such as, through love of learning, became philosophers, and departed hence perfectly pure.

It would appear, then, that in this scheme of the ancient savant, there was a vague conception of the immortality of the soul, and that he attached as much value to a highly cultivated mind as we do now, under a more enlightened dispensation.

But to return from this digression, to the preparatory education of the candidate for medical honours—is not a knowledge of some of the living tongues almost as essential to the learned physician, as that of the dead languages? and, when the Latin and Greek tongues are familiar, are not the modern languages acquired with great facility? The French and German languages are now considered essential to the medical philosopher, in the prosecution of his varied studies.

The Paris Schools of Medicine occupy the same elevated position in the esteem of the profession, at this time, that the Edinburgh University did half a century ago. Who, then, that is at all ambitious to keep pace with the improvements in medical science, does not wish to be able to read the works of French authors in their own language?

The Professors of the German Universities, too, are making important discoveries in pathological and microscopic anatomy, as well as in organic chemistry; and



hence the necessity of a familiar acquaintance with their language, in order to become intimate with their medical literature.

And while I contend that a knowledge of the ancient and modern languages is of inestimable value to the learned physician, I have no disposition to depreciate the advantages to be derived from an acquaintance with mathematics, natural philosophy, chemistry, English literature, moral philosophy, or any of the other branches of learning included in a collegiate education. These are all elements of an enlarged and liberal education, and constitute the appropriate materials for the groundwork of medical philosophy.

Although I have no reason for the apprehension, yet it may be that there are some among my audience who have not received the thorough preparatory education which has just been indicated, as of essential value to the medical scholar, and who feel, therefore, discouraged at the threshold of their professional education. To such I would speak encouragingly, and say, that with good talents, close application, and a generous love for our noble and beneficent calling, you have no reason to feel disheartened. But let me enjoin it upon you, immediately after you have obtained your medical diploma, and have entered on the practice of your profession, to secure the aid of a private tutor, or study as your taste and circumstances may permit, the classics, modern languages, and such other branches of education as you have heretofore neglected. By this course, you will retrieve past losses, and ultimately secure the advantages of a full academic curriculum.

We have in our profession many illustrious examples, in whom such a course of study led to the highest distinction.

The late Dr. Joseph Parrish, one of the most respectable and extensive practitioners of the city of Philadel-

phia, was engaged in a mechanical employment, with nothing more than a common school education, up to the twenty-second year of his age, when he suddenly relinquished the business of a hatter, entered the office of the late Professor Wistar as a private pupil, and, after three years' diligent study, received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1805, at the University of Pennsylvania. He afterwards entered upon the practice of his profession with great enthusiasm; but finding that he laboured under great disadvantages for want of a more liberal education, he at once employed a private tutor, under whose direction he prosecuted his classical and literary studies with such success, that, after a lapse of several years, he took rank among our best educated physicians, and subsequently distinguished himself as an accurate observer, a perspicuous writer, a popular lecturer, a skilful surgeon, and a sagacious practitioner of medicine. He filled, with satisfaction, the offices of Vice-President of the "Philadelphia College of Physicians," and Vice-President of the "Philadelphia Medical Society."

He officiated as Surgeon to the Philadelphia Alms-House, when it was located in Spruce street above Tenth, and filled the same office in the Pennsylvania Hospital for several years, with honour to himself and satisfaction to both Institutions. It is said, too, that the Professorship of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania was once within his reach, which his native modesty constrained him to decline. "My bark," said he, "was made for quiet waters."

Dr. Parrish was remarkable for the amenity of his manners in the sick room, among all classes of society. The sweetness of his temper and the warmth of his affection shone forth in his bright countenance, not only in the domestic and social circle, but in his daily rounds of professional duty.

For your further encouragement, I will next hold up



to your view, an imperfect portrait of M. Velpeau, a resident of Paris, who is, without controversy, among the most distinguished medical men of the present age. This extraordinary man was the son of a poor country blacksmith. He often blew his father's bellows, and intended in his boyhood to learn his father's trade; but such were his transcendent talents, such his untiring industry, and such his fondness for learning, that, despite of his obscure origin, his extreme poverty, and his defective early education, "he has worked his way, step by step, to the lofty and enviable eminence he now occupies."

Velpeau was born in the year 1795, and is, therefore, now only fifty-three years of age. Nevertheless, as a proof of his wonderful industry, he has written nearly thirty thousand printed pages. Besides seventy-seven valuable medical works, there are one hundred and fifty other essays and memoirs ascribed to his pen. His mind is so richly stored with knowledge upon all subjects connected with the profession, that in Paris he is called *the living encyclopaedia*.

Permit me, also, to give you a short sketch of the celebrated Civiale, of the metropolis of France, who is unquestionably the author of the greatest achievement of *modern surgery*.

Like many of the distinguished men of ancient and recent times, he is the son of poor parents, and "his education was wholly neglected up to the eighteenth year of his age."

The discovery which has immortalized him, and will hand his name down to posterity as a public benefactor, is the destruction of urinary calculi, in the bladder, by lithotriptic instruments.

The Royal Academy of Science at Paris, in 1824, reported it as "glorious for French Surgery, honourable to its author, and consoling to humanity."



In 1826, the same Academy awarded him six thousand francs, as a *prix d'encouragement*, which was followed the next year by the great surgical prize of ten thousand francs from the *Monthylon Fund*.

Civiale is now fifty-five years of age, and has operated for stone in the bladder, on upwards of a thousand patients, and with such wonderful success, that wealth and honours have flowed in upon him from the British dominions, and from all the kingdoms of Europe.

He is, moreover, a chaste writer, an eloquent lecturer, and a gentleman of great urbanity of manners. He lives in princely style.

Akenside, too, the physician and the poet, the author of several of the most beautiful didactic poems that adorn *English Literature*, among which is "The Pleasures of the Imagination," was the son of a butcher.

Other brilliant examples, illustrative of this point, might be introduced; but these are sufficient to show that men of genius may rise to great eminence in spite of obscure origin, extreme poverty, and defective early education.

Let us now look at the other side of the picture. Suppose a young man, without preparatory education, and without talents, from a strong predilection for the medical profession, should ask a respectable physician to receive him into his office as a private pupil, would it not be a duty to dissuade him from his purpose, by assuring him that the profession held out no inducements for him to enter it; that the moral responsibilities are very onerous; that, from the want of a clear, discriminating mind, unconscious, but fatal mistakes might be committed; and that life might be ignorantly sacrificed, and the moral sense subsequently disturbed by the most painful reminiscences?

Besides, he would be obliged to submit, all his days, to the mortification of occupying a low place in the

profession and spending of his time in the humbler walks of life, amidst the habitations of penury, and sickness, and sorrow, and death, with but little remuneration and less gratitude.

Or he might be induced to join the migratory hordes of apostates from the regular practice, to Thompsonianism, Homœopathy, Hydropathy, Neuropathy, or some other form of medical imposture. A series of gross deceptions must now be practised. Every successful effort must be magnified into a miraculous cure; and every failure must be ascribed to being called in too late. Ignorance must be concealed by dignified silence, and the whole life of the charlatan become a continuous falsehood. By such a nefarious course he might enrich himself with the hard earnings of the poor, the ignorant and the credulous, and might thus be enabled to pamper his animal appetite, indulge his love of ostentatious display, and even to amass a fortune. But these results are mingled with contamination, with deep consciousness of guilt, and with a forfeiture forever of the pleasures that are in store for "the perfect and the upright man" in the life which is to come.

I have dwelt at some length on the subject of preparatory education, because I deem it desirable that the downward tendency of the present age, and the growing disrespect for high intellectual attainments should be arrested.

We now pass to the study of medicine, and to the extensive influence that you are destined ultimately to exert over the social condition of man. You will be solicited to *minister to minds diseased*; to mitigate bodily suffering, and to prolong life. And when your professional wand is broken, and your most skilful efforts unavailing, it will be expected that you will extend to the afflicted family your sympathy, and to the dying the consolations of the Gospel. You will be ad-



mitted, too, behind the veil that screens the privacy of domestic life from the scrutiny of the world. The peace and happiness of families will often be confided to your honour. Hence, the vocation of a physician is a sacred office, requiring the highest moral as well as intellectual culture.

But to return from this digression, the course of instruction, which, in my judgment, is best calculated to lead you to distinction in your profession, I will now endeavour to indicate.

May we not claim, without arrogance, that Philadelphia is the great emporium of medical science? That she is, in this respect, to the United States, what Edinburgh is to Scotland, Vienna to Austria, and Paris to France? And is it not a tribute justly due to the University of Pennsylvania, to say, that she stands at the head of the medical institutions of our country?

While I say this, it gives me pleasure to recognize the talent and ability that now distinguish the Jefferson Medical College. This school is also in a very prosperous condition, and is yearly adding names of promised eminence to the rolls of our profession. The Professors of the Pennsylvania College, too, have delivered very satisfactory courses of lectures to their medical class, during the two last winters, and the institution may be said to be increasing in respectability and importance. The Franklin Medical College, incorporated by the Legislature of Pennsylvania two years since, is an institution of great promise. The members of her faculty are all men of fine talents, of thorough classical and medical education, and of untiring zeal. She is in great favour with the medical profession of this city. Her faculty has been lately strengthened by the appointment of Doctor Thomas Forrest Betton to the chair of surgery.

The Philadelphia College of Medicine, the last chartered medical institution of our city, is clothed with all



the powers of the other Medical Colleges ; delivers summer and winter courses of lectures, and has the privilege of conferring degrees twice a year. The faculty are encouraged to hope that their efforts will be crowned with success. It cannot but be the wish of every sincere lover of science, that these several institutions may continue to stimulate each other to an honourable rivalry.

Unconnected as I am with any of the incorporated medical institutions of our city, I shall deliver an independent course of lectures. During the approaching summer I shall endeavour to communicate to you, accurately, all that is known by the profession respecting the obstetrical art, and the treatment of the diseases of women and children. With regard to the winter schools, you must select for yourselves, according to your individual predilections.

My preference is for the University of Pennsylvania. She is my Alma Mater, and I should be destitute of filial regard if I did not feel for her the warmest affection. Besides, I reverence her for the unceasing and noble efforts she has always made to elevate and dignify our profession. During the last twenty years, the rapid multiplication of medical schools in different parts of our country, has tended to lower the standard of medical education, and to degrade the profession. The University, however, has always resisted this downward tendency, and in her praiseworthy efforts to sustain the profession, jeopardized her interests, and diminished the number of her pupils. But institutions, like individuals, that pursue an honest and an honourable course, may suffer for a time, but will always, in the end, receive their just reward.

The members of the medical profession of the United States have recently awakened from their profound slumbers, and have become alarmed at their indifference. Two National Medical Conventions have been

held, the first in New York, the last in Philadelphia, at which the most learned men of our profession were congregated. From every part of the Union the cry of the delegates was for reform. Their deliberations resulted in a fixed determination that the whole profession should unite in a grand effort to elevate the standard of classical and medical education, for all who shall hereafter become members of our profession; and they enacted a code of medical ethics for the better regulation of our vocational intercourse. But the most important of all the changes recommended, was that the medical schools of the United States should extend their courses of lectures from four to six months. In good faith, and in accordance with the spirit of the convention, the University of Pennsylvania decided promptly to carry into effect, as far as practicable, all the suggestions of that learned council. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, also adopted and carried out the recommendations of the Convention. And these two pioneer institutions in the great work of reformation, I am happy to say, have been generously sustained by the profession at large. Their classes were increased both in numbers and respectability, and their praise is in the mouth of all the State Medical Conventions. Hear what the Medical Convention of the State of Alabama says of the University of Pennsylvania. "Resolved, That we unite, in one voice, in the most unqualified praise, for the high toned, independent, and self-sacrificing magnanimity, by which the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania has distinguished itself, in becoming the pioneer to place the first foot upon the threshold of the usages in this country, regardless of all consequences to themselves, and governed alone by an eye single to the general good of the profession they so honourably represent." I will not detain you with other complimentary notices. Suffice it to say, that the profession from every part of the Union echo, and re-echo,



the cry for reform, which commenced in the north, and was promptly responded to in the south, the east, and the west. The doings of the delegated wisdom of the profession, in National Convention assembled, receive universal approbation.

For nearly half a century, the medical schools of the United States have made but little advance in their system of instruction. The time required, the number and the length of the courses, until last year, have been uniformly the same; while in the British dominions, and on the Continent of Europe, their institutions have kept pace with the march of medical science.

That our deficiencies may appear more palpable, let us contrast the course of instruction in our schools, with that of the best medical institutions of foreign countries.

The University of Pennsylvania requires of every candidate for the degree of doctor of medicine, that he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years; shall have applied himself to the study of medicine three years; shall have been during that time the private pupil for two years, at least, of a respectable practitioner of medicine, and shall have attended two full courses of lectures on all the branches of science taught in that, or in an ad-eundem institution.

Candidates for medical honours at the "Royal College of Surgeons," London, are required to produce testimonials that they have been engaged six years in prosecuting their medical studies, before they can be admitted to an examination.

The University of Edinburgh will not admit a student to an examination for the degree of doctor of medicine, unless he possesses a knowledge of the Latin language, and has spent upwards of four years in acquiring a knowledge of the medical sciences.

The Medical Institution of Upper Canada requires the candidate to submit to an examination on the Latin

tongue before his specific attainments in the medical profession are tested.

The medical department of the University of Dublin does not allow a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Medicine to apply for an examination until he has been in attendance at the lectures of that institution for twenty-four terms—that is, six years.

In the Paris School of Medicine, there are eighteen distinct chairs, and twenty-six regularly appointed Professors, who are aided by a number of *Agrégés*, or assistant professors. At this institution the student is required to present a well authenticated certificate of his birth; to exhibit his diploma of Bachelor of Letters, or, in lieu of it, submit to an examination on the Latin, Greek, and French languages, General History, and Geography; to give satisfactory evidence that he has attended the instructions of sixteen quarterly terms, comprising four years; to submit to five examinations, one at the end of the first year of his studies, and the other four at regular stated intervals, and to present a thesis which consists of written answers to four questions, drawn by lot, on Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery, and Medicine, before his final examination for his medical degree. And severe as these restrictions are, the late National Medical Convention that met at Paris, recommended the government of France to increase the requirements of the candidates for medical honours by enlarging the courses of instruction.

At Vienna, the capital of the Austrian empire, the candidate for a medical degree, before he can be admitted into the school of medicine, must have attended the primary schools four years, the grammar schools six, and two under the Faculty of philosophy, and must have obtained a certificate of proficiency in the Greek, Latin, and modern languages, as well as in Mathematics, Astronomy, and History. After he enters on his medical studies, he is obliged to attend Lectures on Botany,



Zoology, Mineralogy, General Anatomy, Comparative Physiology, the History of Medicine, General Pathology, Pathological Anatomy, Surgical Pathology, Medical Physics, Medical Jurisprudence, Hygiene, General Therapeutics, and Clinical Medicine, for five years; not all in the same year, but in a regular succession. He is examined by a portion of the Faculty every six months—and, before he receives his degree, he is obliged to defend, in public, a thesis written in the Latin language.

The requisitions at the medical school at Berlin, the capital of the Prussian states, are nearly the same as those of the institutions of Paris and Vienna.

The regulations of other Medical Schools might be detailed, but enough has been stated to show that in our system of instruction we are far behind our trans-atlantic brethren.

Besides, it is certainly very discreditable to the profession that there is not a medical institution in our country that enjoys the confidence of the general government. On the contrary, the expense is incurred of convening an Army or Navy Board of Surgeons to test the qualifications of candidates to fill medical posts in either arm of the national service, as often as vacancies occur. And the deficiency of the graduates of our different medical schools is so palpable, that more than three-fourths of them are rejected. Out of sixty candidates that presented themselves before the Army Board of Surgeons in 1845, only three were recommended to the Secretary of War, as worthy to be commissioned.

At this point in the discussion, the question doubtless arises in your minds, as to the possibility of receiving a thorough medical education in the city of Philadelphia.

This inquiry may be answered affirmatively, but not in the usual time devoted to the study of medicine. In what part of Europe could there be found a man superior to Dr. George B. Wood as a lecturer on Materia

Medica? Who could give a more agreeable and instructive course of lectures upon Anatomy, than Dr. Paul B. Goddard? Who has ever heard a more sprightly and interesting lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, than Dr. Samuel Jackson? And where is there a man that enjoys a more enviable professional reputation than Dr. Chapman? My heart indeed, sickens within me, when I revert to the illustrious men that adorned the professorships in the University of Pennsylvania thirty years ago,—Rush, Barton, Wistar, Physick, Dorsey, James, and Dewees, all ornaments of the age in which they lived. Where are they now? They shine only as the glory of a past age.

The patriarch of our profession alone remains, a *cherished link between the present and the past*, to enliven us by his wit, to instruct us by his counsels, to improve us by his example, and, like the sun in the natural world, to dispense life and animation in his daily rounds.

He unites to the kindest feelings of the heart an eminently social disposition, and years have not diminished the gayety of his spirit. As a friend, he is noble, generous, and sincere. His individual popularity is only surpassed by his professional eminence.

He is by common consent the brightest ornament of our profession, and the great "National Medical Association," by a unanimous vote, proclaimed him the first in the country by electing him their president.

Dr. John Rhea Barton, too, of our city, deservedly ranks among the first surgeons of the age. And Dr. Randolph, who has just departed this life, was certainly one of the most distinguished lithotriptists in the world. For skill as an operator, and for proportional success, he was not inferior to Civiale, the author of this great modern achievement in Surgery.

Professors Hodge and Meigs are certainly among the most distinguished accoucheurs of our country; and



the former, as a public lecturer, is as faithful and accurate as the latter is sprightly and entertaining.

Time would fail me to speak of Gibson and Dunglison, and Horner, and Mutter, and Mitchell, and Joynes, and Rogers, and Bache, and Atlee, and Biddle, and Patterson, and other eminently qualified lecturers, whose fame is now a part of the fame of our country. And, if there were time, what would it avail for me to speak in commendation of men who have spoken so often, and so well for themselves?

Besides the corporate institutions and professors hitherto named, there are associate and individual courses of lectures delivered in this city, during the summer season, that are entitled to a favourable notice.

In the "*Philadelphia Association for Medical Instruction*," there is a full course of lectures delivered on eight branches of medical science. We recognize, in this fellowship, personal friends, for whom we have the most sincere regard. The lecturers are all thoroughly educated and highly gifted men. We extend to them, as honourable competitors, the right hand of fellowship, and promise our cordial co-operation in every effort to advance the cause of medical science.

Another association of lecturers, under the old cognomen of the "*Philadelphia Medical Institute*," have entered the list of competition within the last two years. They are all good classical and medical scholars, and have acquired considerable reputation as accurate and faithful teachers.

Dr. Warrington gives an independent course of practical instruction in Midwifery, and furnishes his pupils with parturient cases under his own personal superintendence.

The Pennsylvania Hospital presents to medical students many attractions. The medical, surgical, and obstetrical departments, are filled with interesting patients. Clinical lectures are regularly delivered, in the surgical

wards, by Doctors Norris, Peace, and Fox; in the medical wards, by Doctors Wood, Pepper, and Gerhard; and in the obstetric wards, by Drs. Hodge and Meigs. Embrace, with zeal, the facilities offered you by this institution, to acquire a practical knowledge of your profession. It is scarcely necessary to remind you, that the Hospital ticket entitles you, not only to the practice of the house, but to the most extensive and valuable medical library in the United States.

The Logonian Library, too, is within the reach of the medical philosopher. In this collection we have the works of the ancient medical writers, and there you may trace the progress of medical science through a regular series of classical writers, from its earliest dawn to the commencement of the seventeenth century.

The Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, located in Blockley township, on the western side of the Schuylkill, is also accessible to the student of medicine, and might be visited occasionally with great advantage. The edifice is constructed upon a magnificent scale. The pleasure grounds are tastefully laid out. Indeed, the whole arrangement is wonderfully perfect. The patient is not only made comfortable, and treated kindly, but is supplied with every possible means to divert his mind and make him happy.

The Wills' Hospital presents favourable opportunities for becoming acquainted with the symptoms and treatment of diseases of the eye, under the instruction of Doctors Hays, Fox, Littell, and Parrish, all highly skillful oculists.

The Blockley Hospital, the Small-pox Hospital, and the Philadelphia Dispensary, are also deserving of an occasional visit.

With the many facilities just enumerated, which Philadelphia offers to the aspirant for medical distinction, we have no hesitation in proclaiming it, as our opinion, that as good a medical education, for all practi-



cal purposes, may be obtained here as in any place in the world ; but not in three years. In that time, the student may acquire a sufficient knowledge of the principles of our science, to enable him to commence with advantage a course of clinical instruction, in private practice, under a preceptor, or in the wards of a hospital. Here your organs of sense, your eye, your ear, your nose, and your fingers, must be instructed. Every medical man who is determined to qualify himself for eminence in his profession, ought to spend, at least, two years as Resident Physician in the Pennsylvania Hospital, or some similar institution. Five years, then, in my judgment, is the shortest time in which a man of ordinary talents can acquire a thorough knowledge of the practical duties of our profession, in this or in any other country.

An aspirant for medical distinction, over whose studies I had unlimited control, after finishing his collegiate studies, spent three years at the University of Pennsylvania, in attendance upon lectures, one winter of which time in Dr. Hare's Laboratory, assisting him in his practical operations. He subsequently sojourned one year as Resident Physician at the Wills' Hospital, two years as Resident in the Pennsylvania Hospital, and a short time as a substitute for the Resident at the Insane Hospital. This course of instruction I urged upon him, and would recommend a like system to every candidate for professional distinction that can avail himself of it.

Every scholar that designs to study medicine, should commence his course of instruction on the first Monday of April, so that the three years which our medical schools require to be devoted to the acquisition of medical knowledge, may terminate on the last Saturday of March. He should, at once, procure himself *text books* on all the branches of medical science, which will be also useful to him after he commences the practice of his profession.

To those who cannot afford to spend the whole term of study in Philadelphia, I recommend to enter the office of a respectable country practitioner of medicine, as private pupils, and there to devote eighteen months to reading the most approved medical works. Afterwards let them come to our metropolis and spend eighteen months, during which time they could attend two winter and one summer course of lectures, and be examined upon all the branches of medical science three times.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I would that it were in my power to stir up your ambition to its utmost depths; that I could excite you to aim at the most elevated positions in the profession, even at the professional chairs of the most venerated medical institutions of the country. But be assured, now, while standing on the threshold of your profession, that you can reach the places that those distinguished men now occupy, only by the same sleepless vigilance and unwearied toil which secured to them their well-earned honours. Enter on your medical studies, then, determined by patient industry, not only to master our noble science, and establish for yourselves an honourable fame, but to emulate the example of the illustrious men who adorn the highest places in the profession. Enter this day upon your summer course of studies with enthusiastic zeal, resolve to forego the amusements of our city, and to earn for yourselves a lasting reputation; so that when you bid a final adieu to us, bearing with you the honours and the blessing of your Alma Mater, you may be enabled to revert to the pleasant and profitable hours you have spent in Philadelphia. Then go where you will, our cordial sympathies shall sustain you in the trials and embarrassments incident to professional success. The pathway to distinction, you will find as elevated and honourable as it is rugged and difficult.





